BARI...?

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE
AT THIS HOUR...?
IS IT TRUE?

DID MR. KIM RUIN MY ASCENSION FOR YOU?

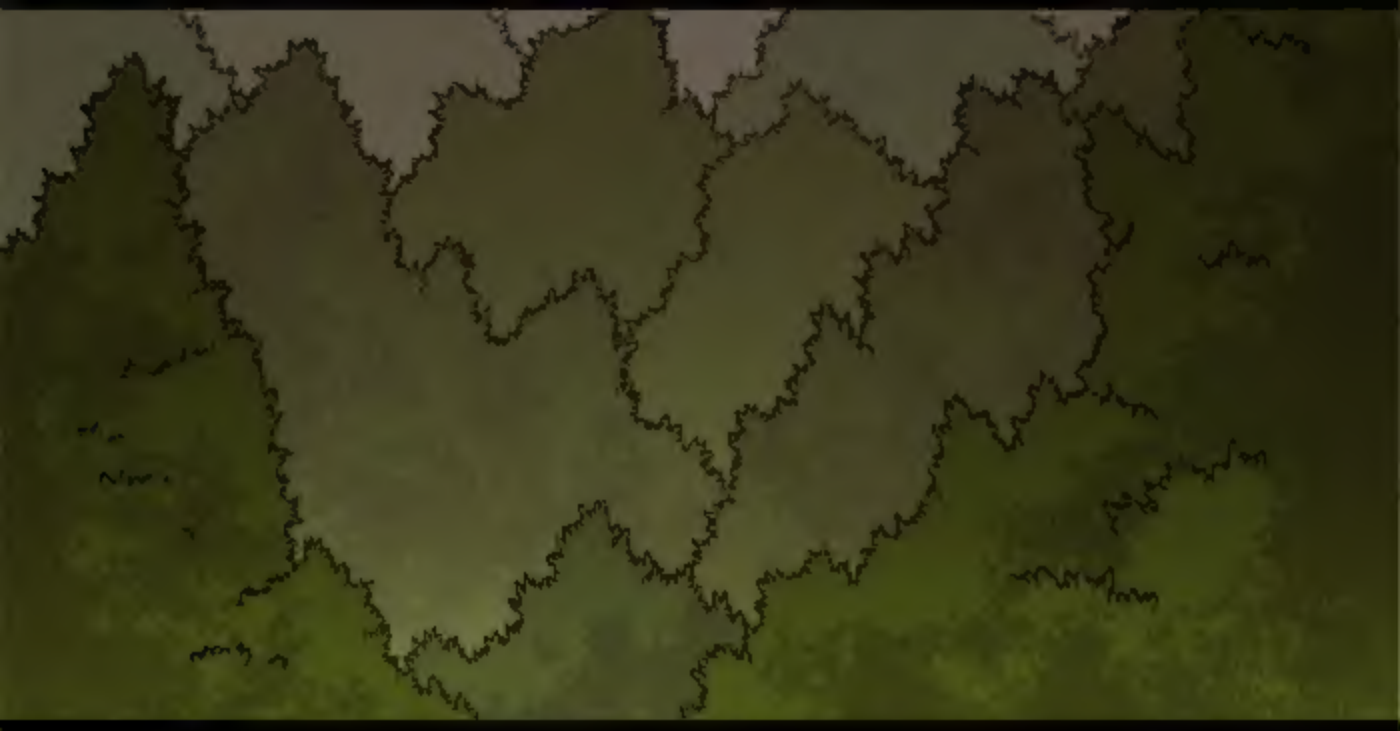
WHAT...?

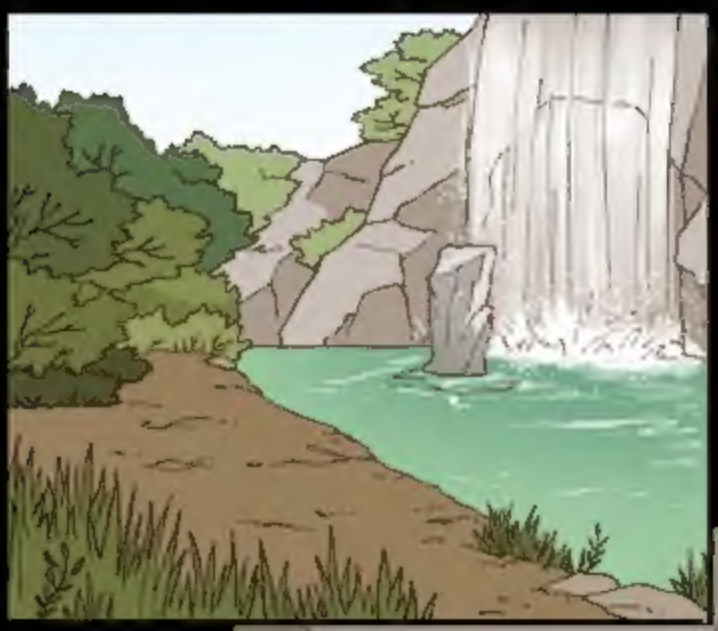
HOW DID YOU KNOW...
...THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE RIVER REMAINING TO GOVERN?

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
...WHILE WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAINING.

How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 53 -





BARI!

MR. NAMSENG?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

TOMORROW IS THE DAY, AT LAST.
YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD ALL THESE YEARS.
IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR THE SUBJECTS OF THE RIVER TO VISIT THEIR NEW MASTER THE DAY BEFORE HE OR SHE BECOME THEIR RULER.
WOOM

SO WE'VE COME TO WISH YOU LUCK.
IF YOU'RE THE RIVER'S SUBJECTS,
THAT MEANS...

THAT'S RIGHT.
IF YOUR ASCENSION IS SUCCESSFUL, THE HAN RIVER IS YOURS.

WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK...
...BARI.

YES!
THANK YOU!

HE HAS A BIG DAY TOMORROW, SO GINSENG WOULD BE JUST THE THING TO BOOST HIS ENERGY.

IT'S BEEN PRESERVED IN HONEY, SO IT SHOULD TASTE GOOD...

HUH?

RUSTLE

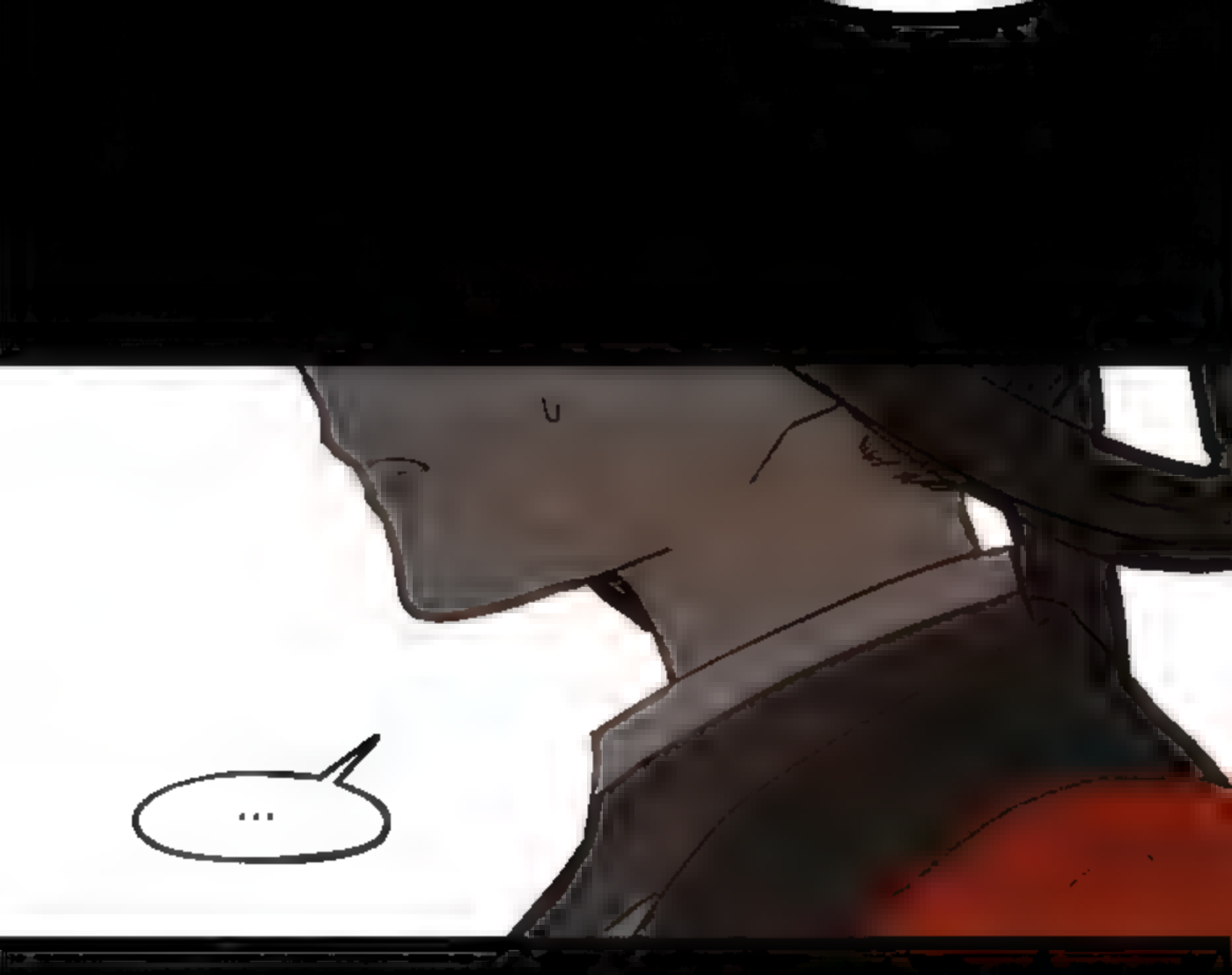
WHAT'S MR. NAMSENG DOING HERE...?
I'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY FIND OUT I SNUCK OUT OF THE TRAINING AREA...

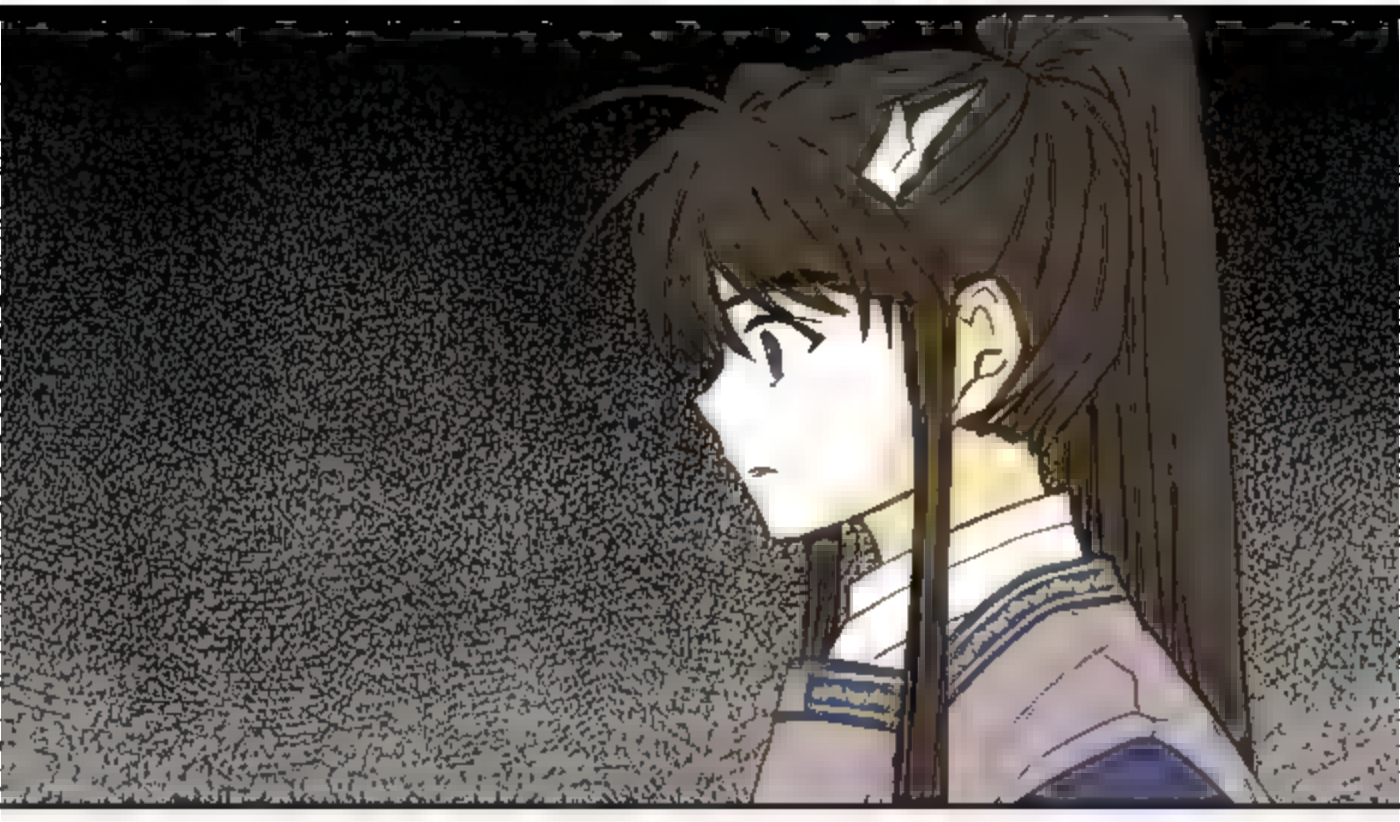
GOODNESS...
IT'S GOING TO TAKE FOREVER TO GET BACK TO HAN RIVER AT THIS RATE.

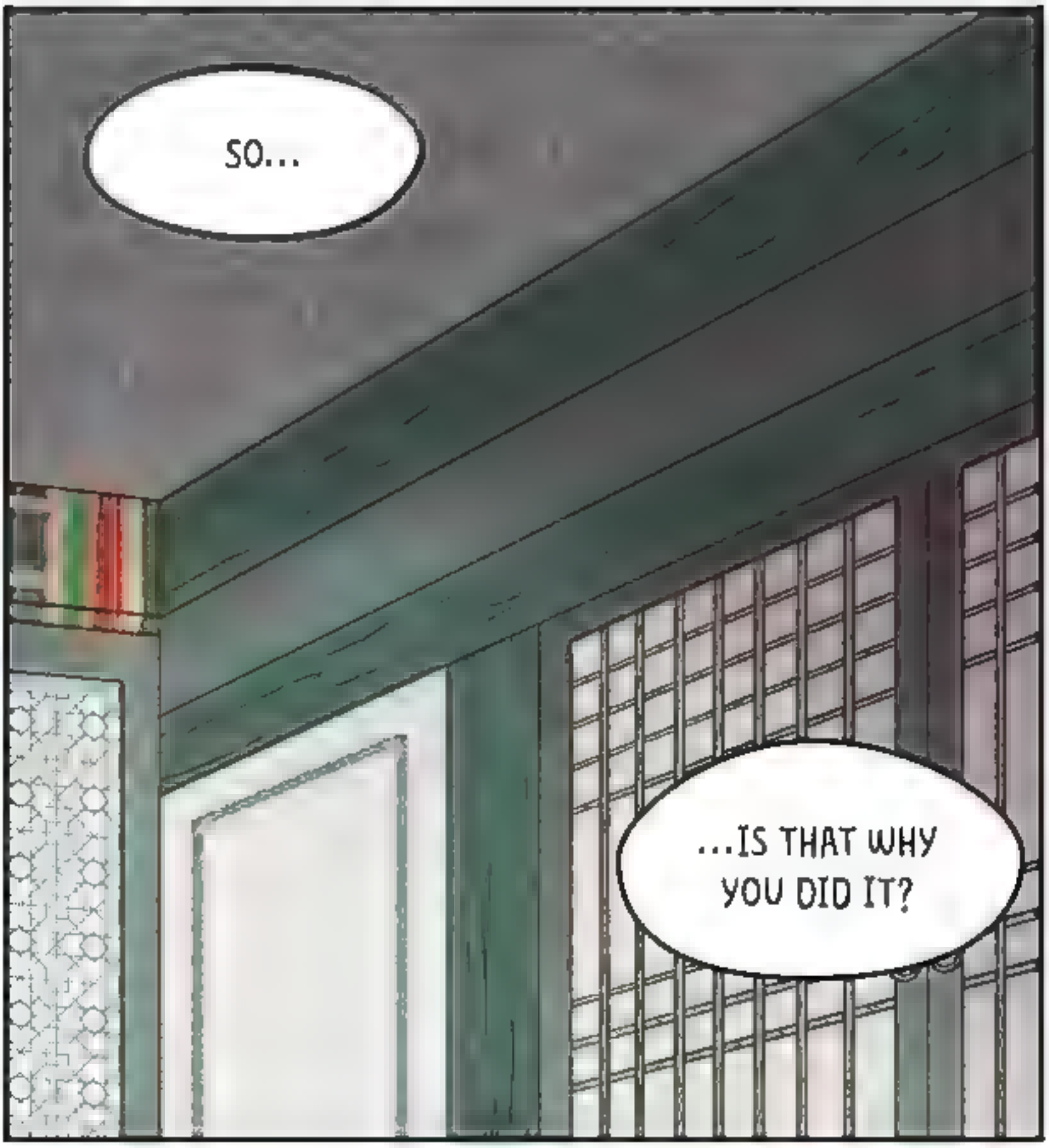
YOU KNOW WHAT'S WORSE?
IF BARI'S ASCENSION DOESN'T WORK OUT, WE HAVE TO COME BACK HERE AGAIN THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
THE IMOOGI NEXT IN LINE IS TRAINING AROUND HERE TOO, RIGHT?

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!
WHAT IF HIS ASCENSION TRULY IS UNSUCCESFUL?
BUT YOU SAID IT YOURSELF
THAT YOU FEEL SORRY FOR THE IMOOGI AFTER HIM.

THERE ARE TWO IMOOGI LEFT TO ASCEND BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE RIVER REMAINING.
THAT MEANS HER THOUSAND YEARS OF TRAINING WILL BE REDUCED TO NOTHING...
...ALL BECAUSE HER ASCENSION WAS SCHEDULED TWO DAYS AFTER BARI'S.

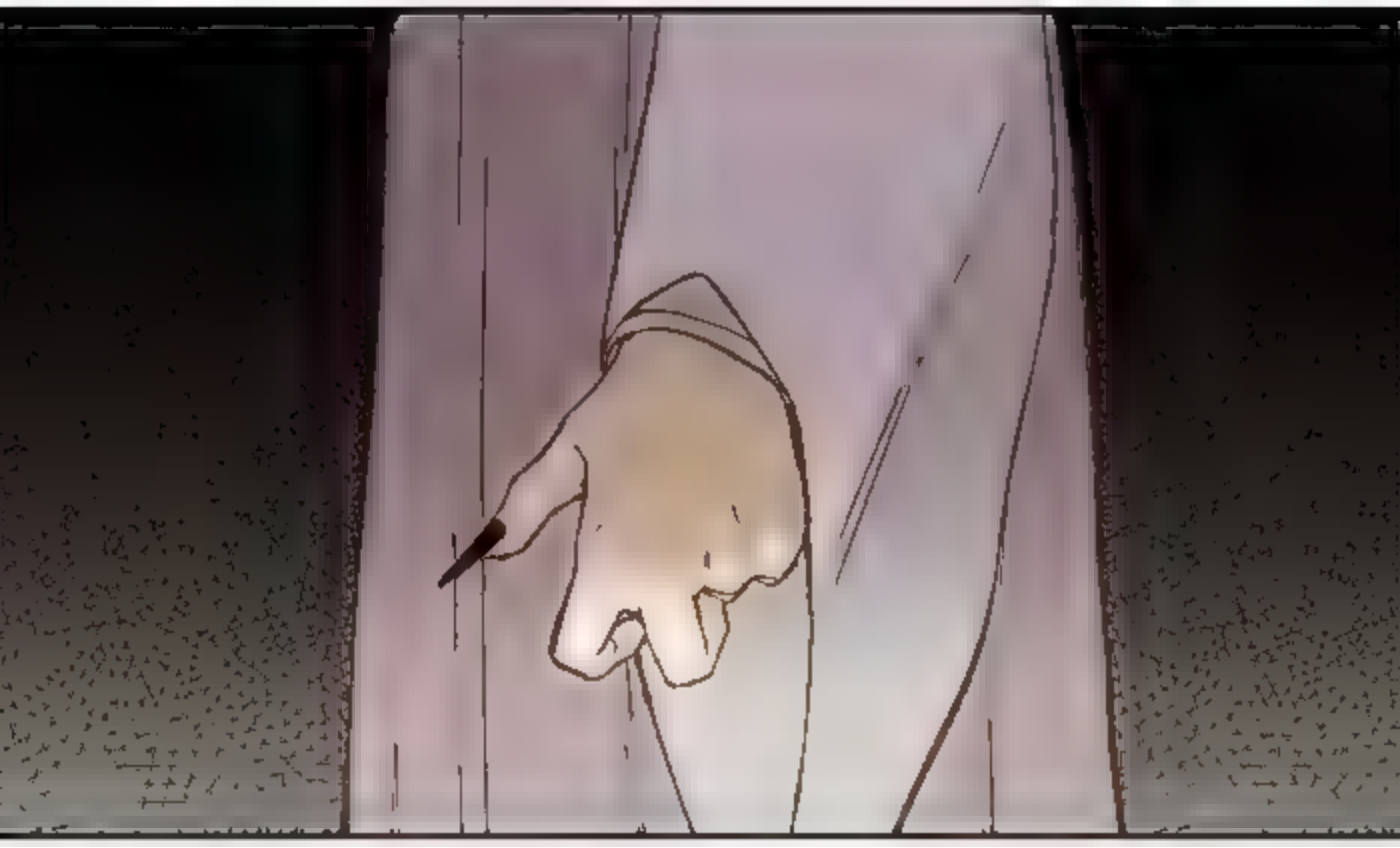


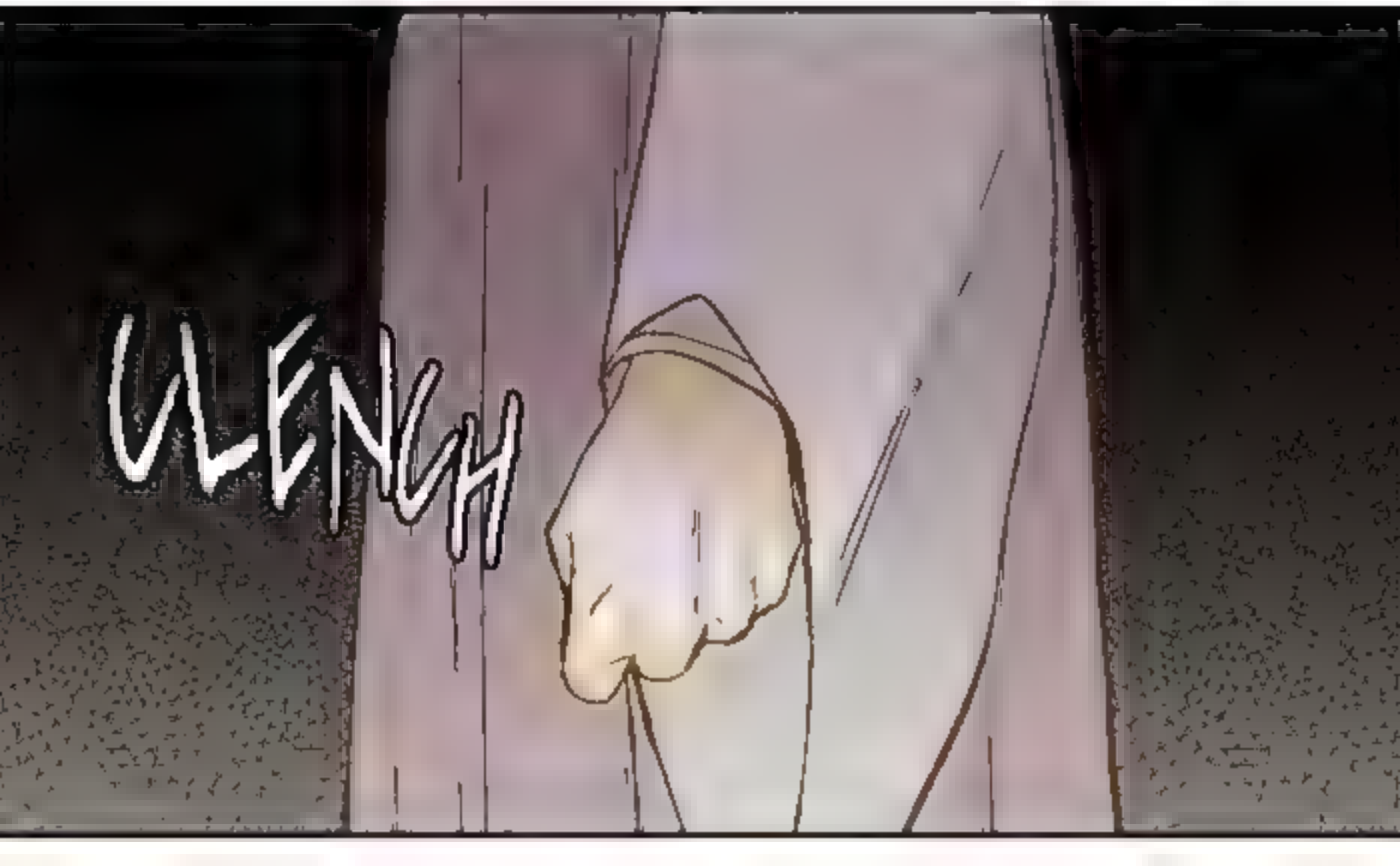



SO...
...IS THAT WHY YOU DID IT?

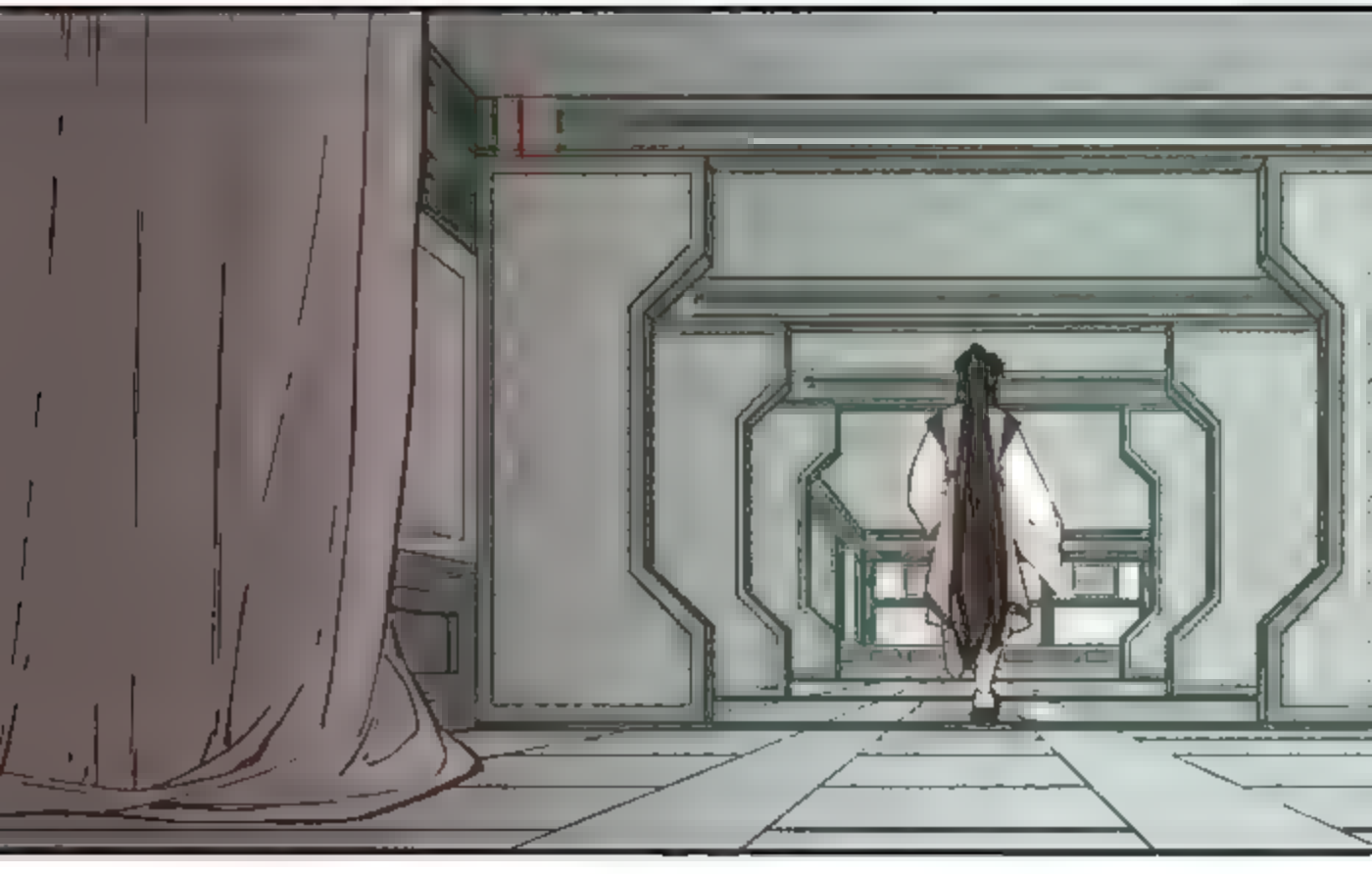
THAT'S WHY YOU TEAMED UP WITH MR. KIM TO RUIN MY ASCENSION...
...AND THEN YOU KILLED HIM SO NO ONE WILL EVER FIND OUT?

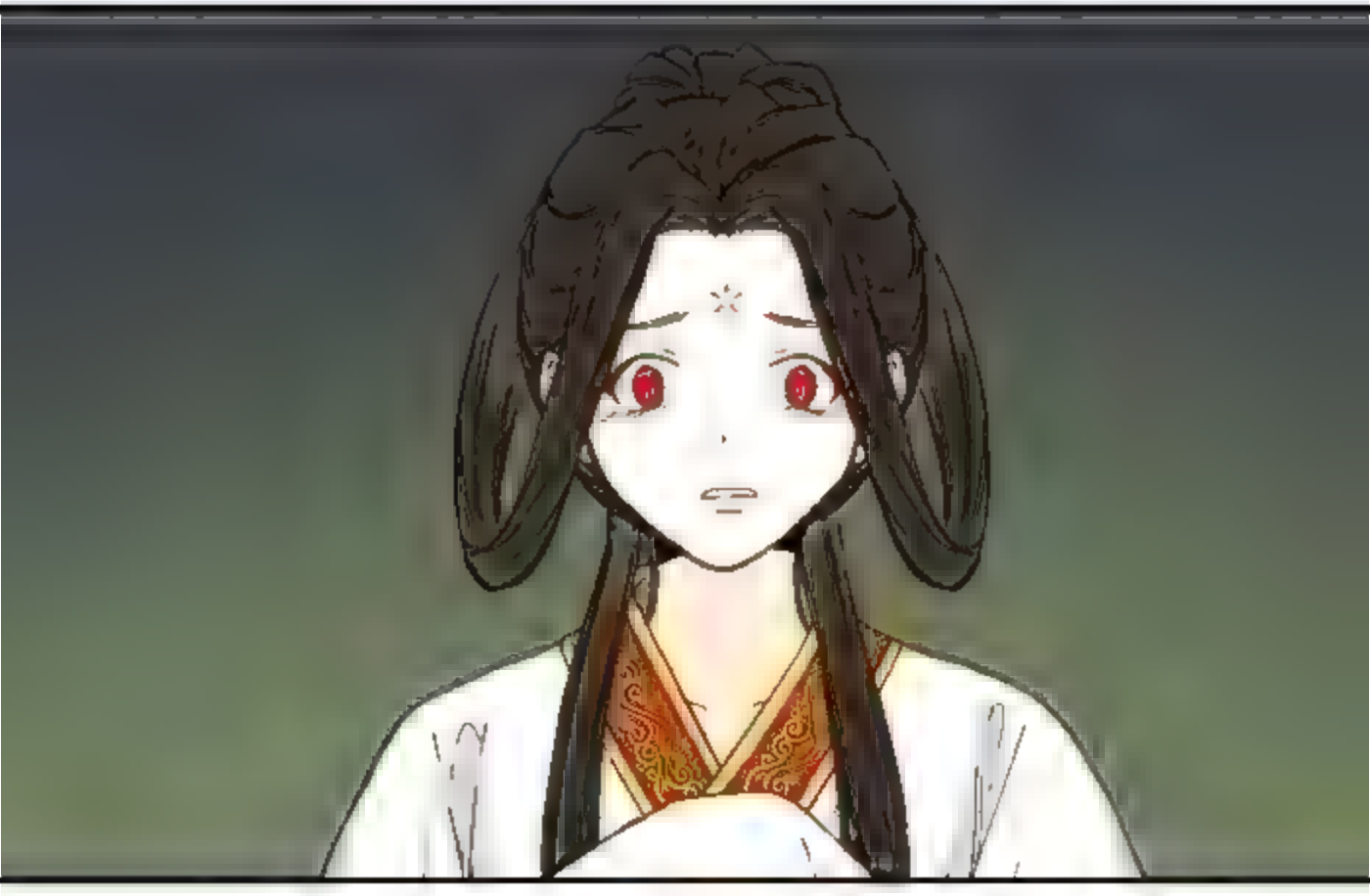
...I'M SORRY.



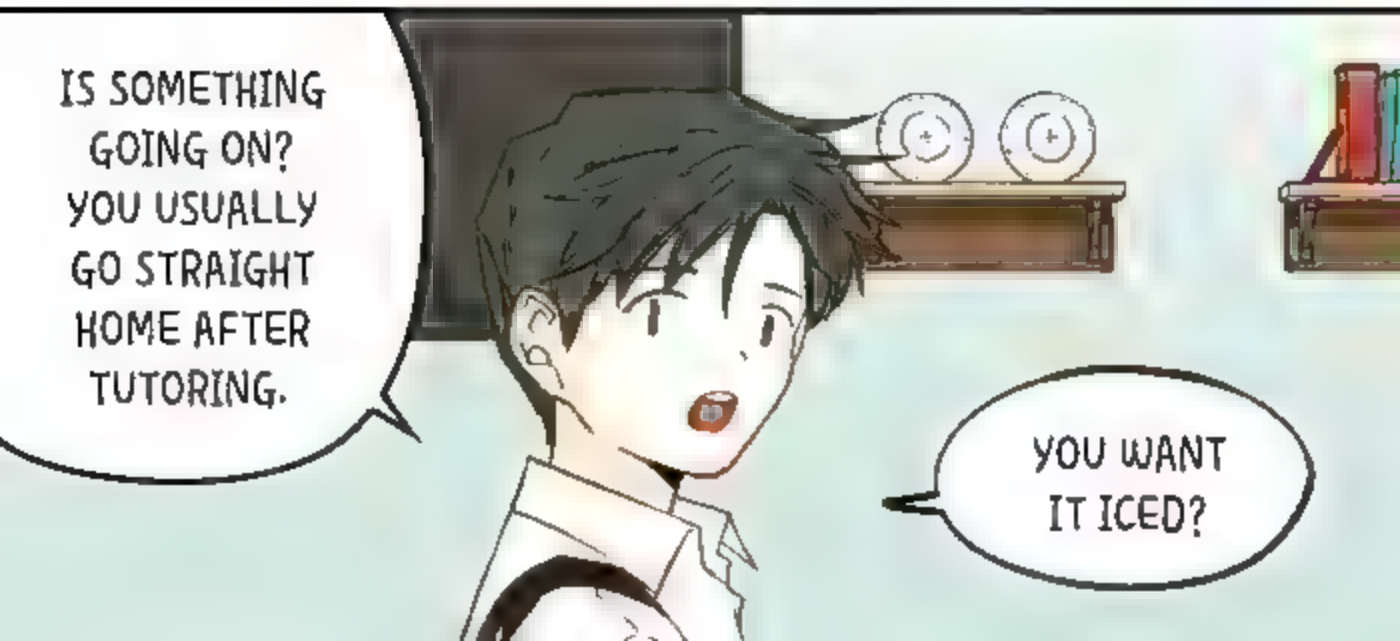

CLENCH

BARI...!
FWOOSH

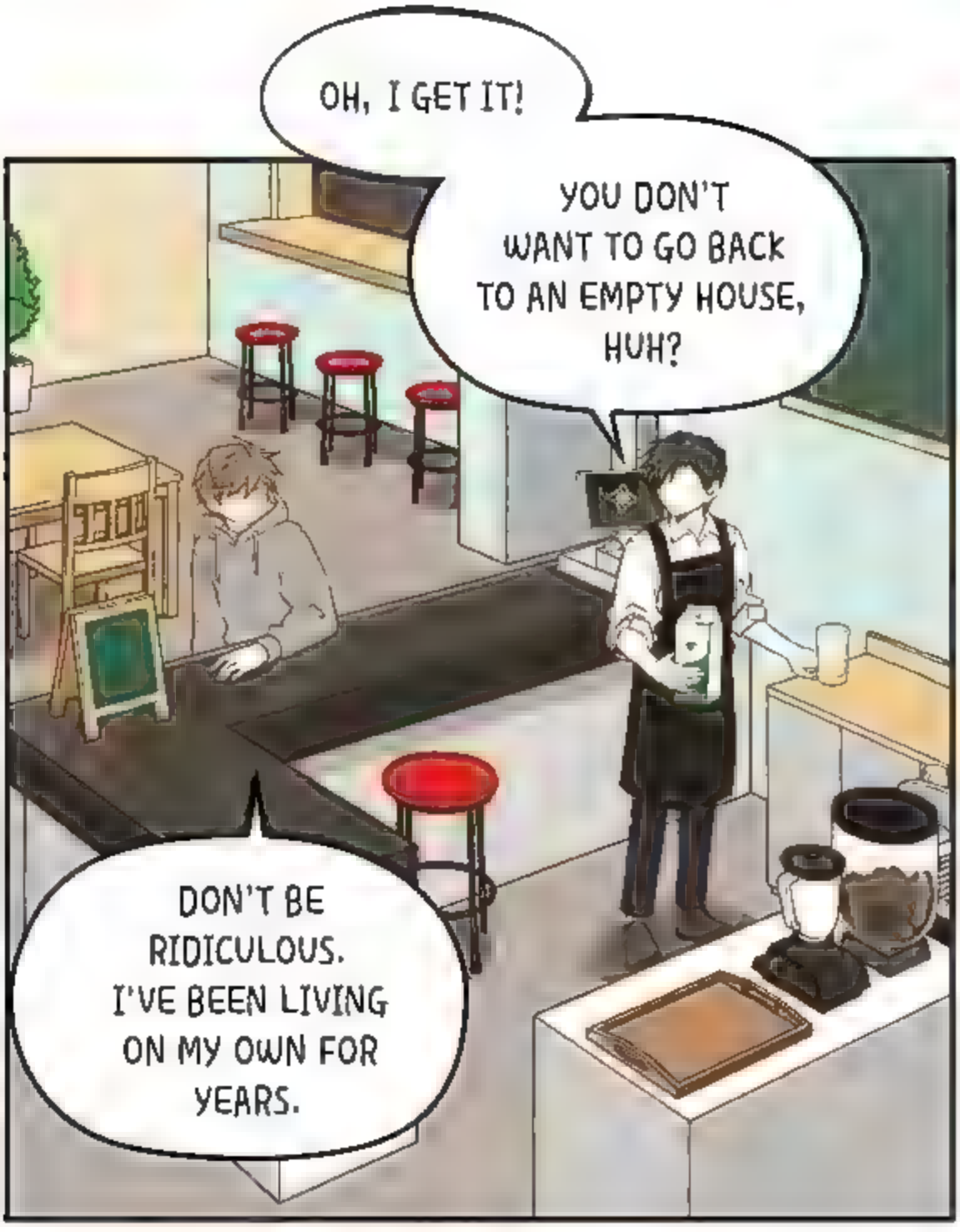


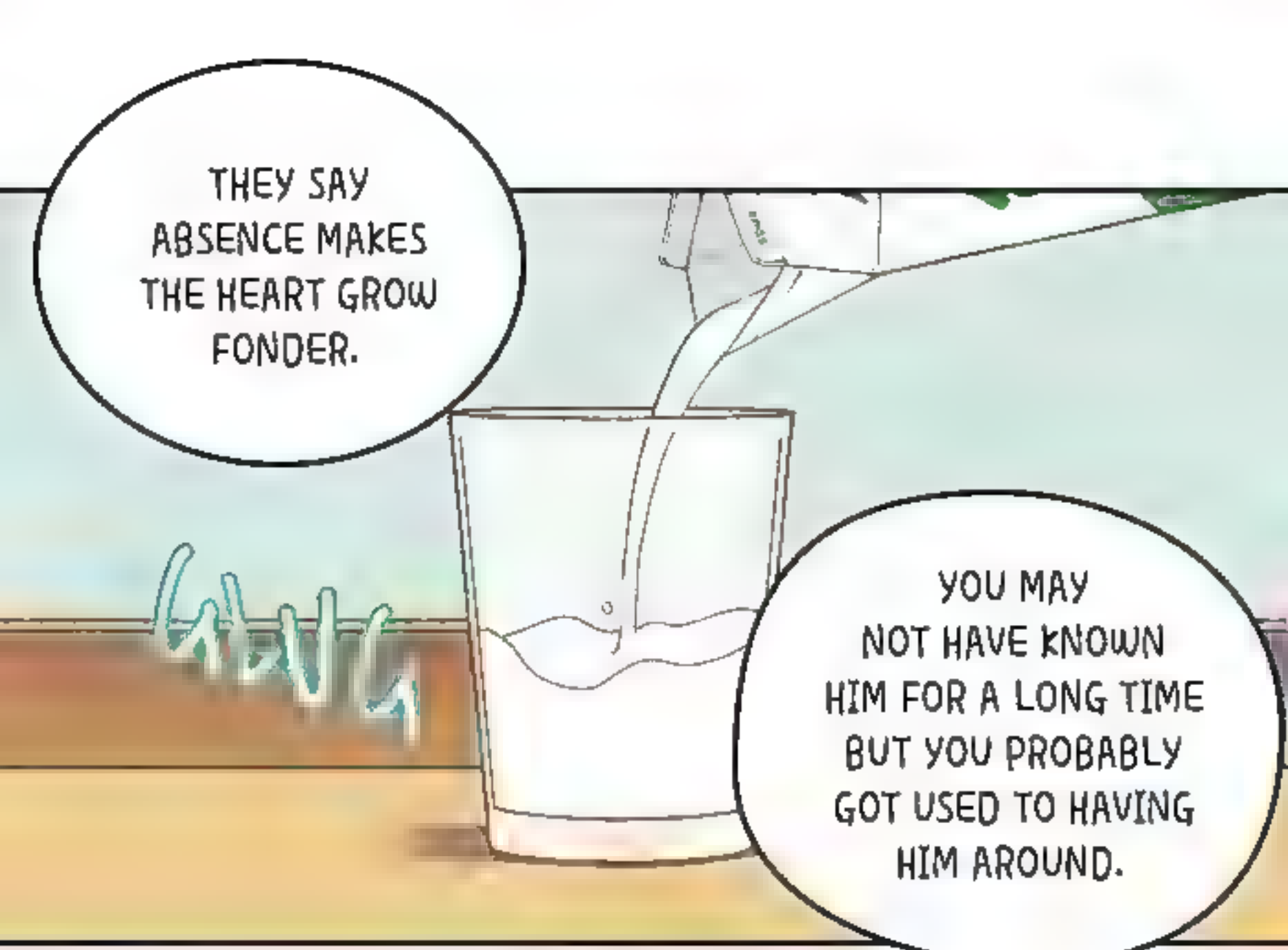


CAN I GET A LATTE, PLEASE?


IS SOMETHING GOING ON? YOU USUALLY GO STRAIGHT HOME AFTER TUTORING.
YOU WANT IT ICED?

IT'S JUST--
WELL, YOU ALWAYS SAY YOU'RE BORED AND WANT TO HANG.
I HAVE PLENTY OF FREE TIME NOW.


OH, I GET IT!
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO AN EMPTY HOUSE, HUH?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. I'VE BEEN LIVING ON MY OWN FOR YEARS.


THEY SAY ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN HIM FOR A LONG TIME BUT YOU PROBABLY GOT USED TO HAVING HIM AROUND.

DID BARI REALLY RUN AWAY FROM HOME?

YOU CAN'T REACH HIM AT ALL?

RUN AWAY FROM HOME?

IT WASN'T EVEN HIS HOUSE TO BEGIN WITH.

IT'S A GOOD THING, 'CAUSE HE WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS ANYWAY...
YOUNG! YOU JERK!
BAM

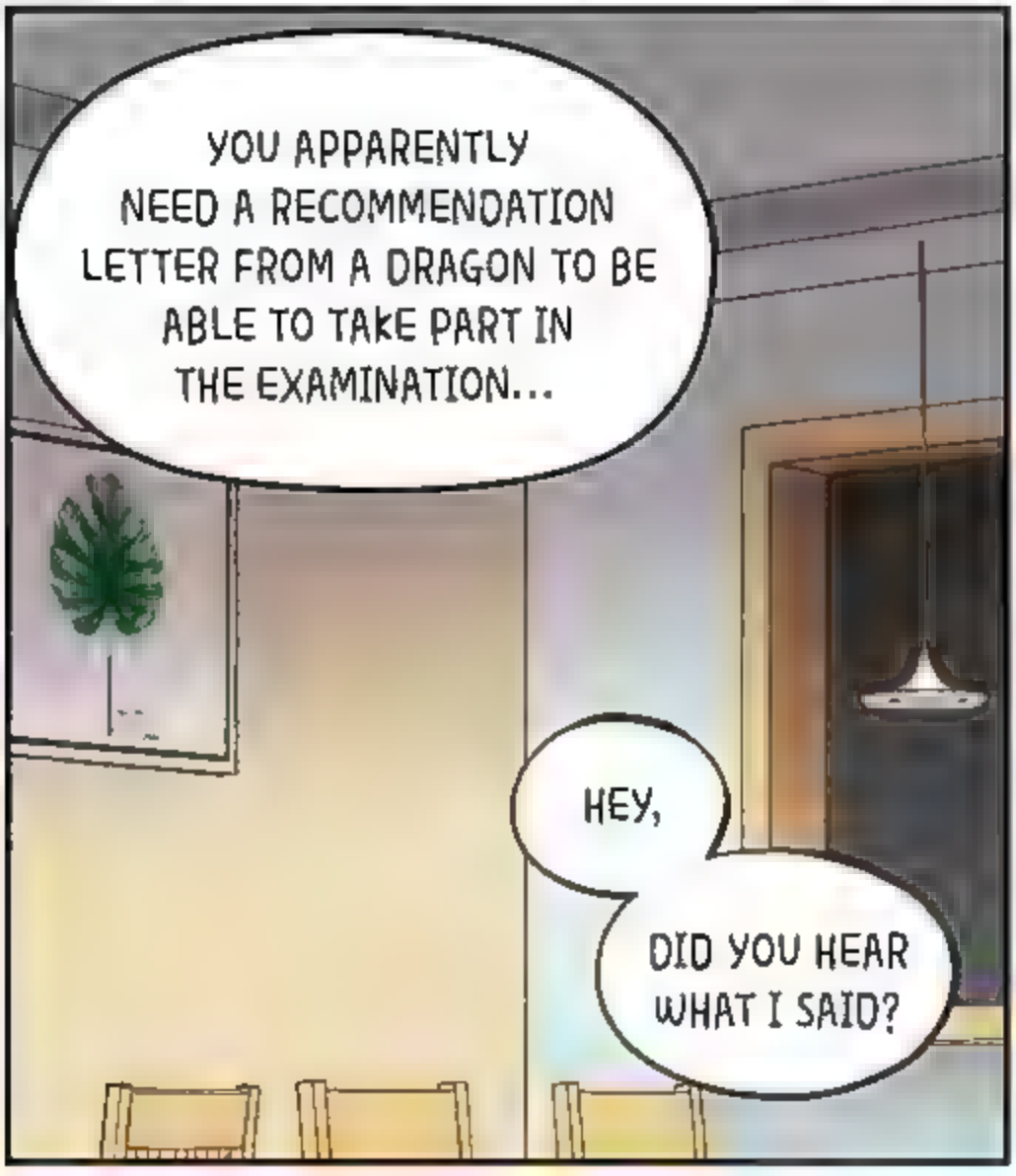
DID YOU BLOCK MY NUMBER?
HOW DARE YOU IGNORE MY MESSAGES?!
ROAR

WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME?!
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU GUYS ANYMORE, SO GO BOTHER SOMEONE ELSE!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

LOOK AT THIS.
IT'S FOR BARI,
BUT IT CAME TO ME.

IT'S AN ANNOUNCEMENT SENT OUT BY THE DRAGON KING OF THE EASTERN SEA.

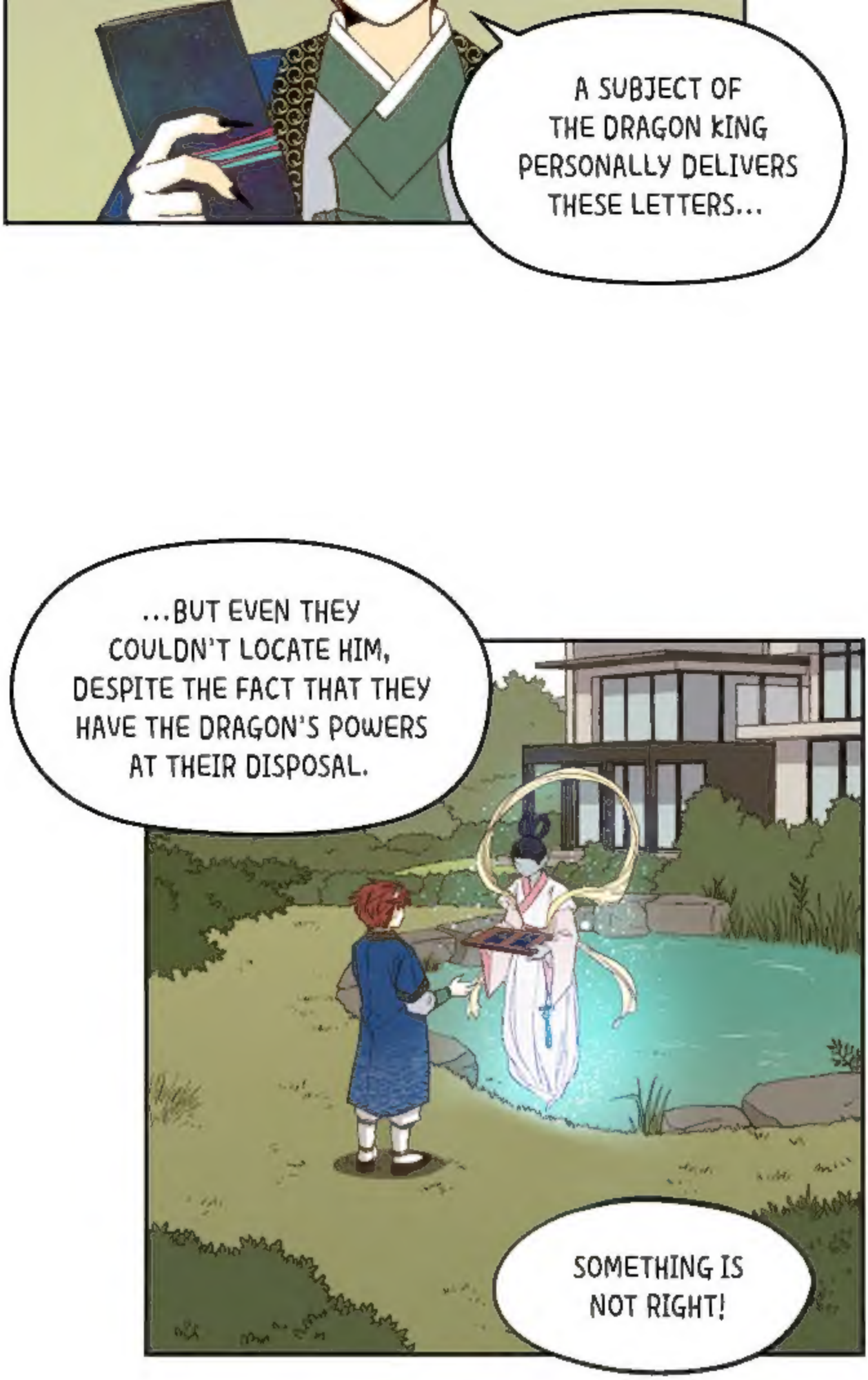
THEY'RE IN CHARGE OF THE SECOND EXAM.

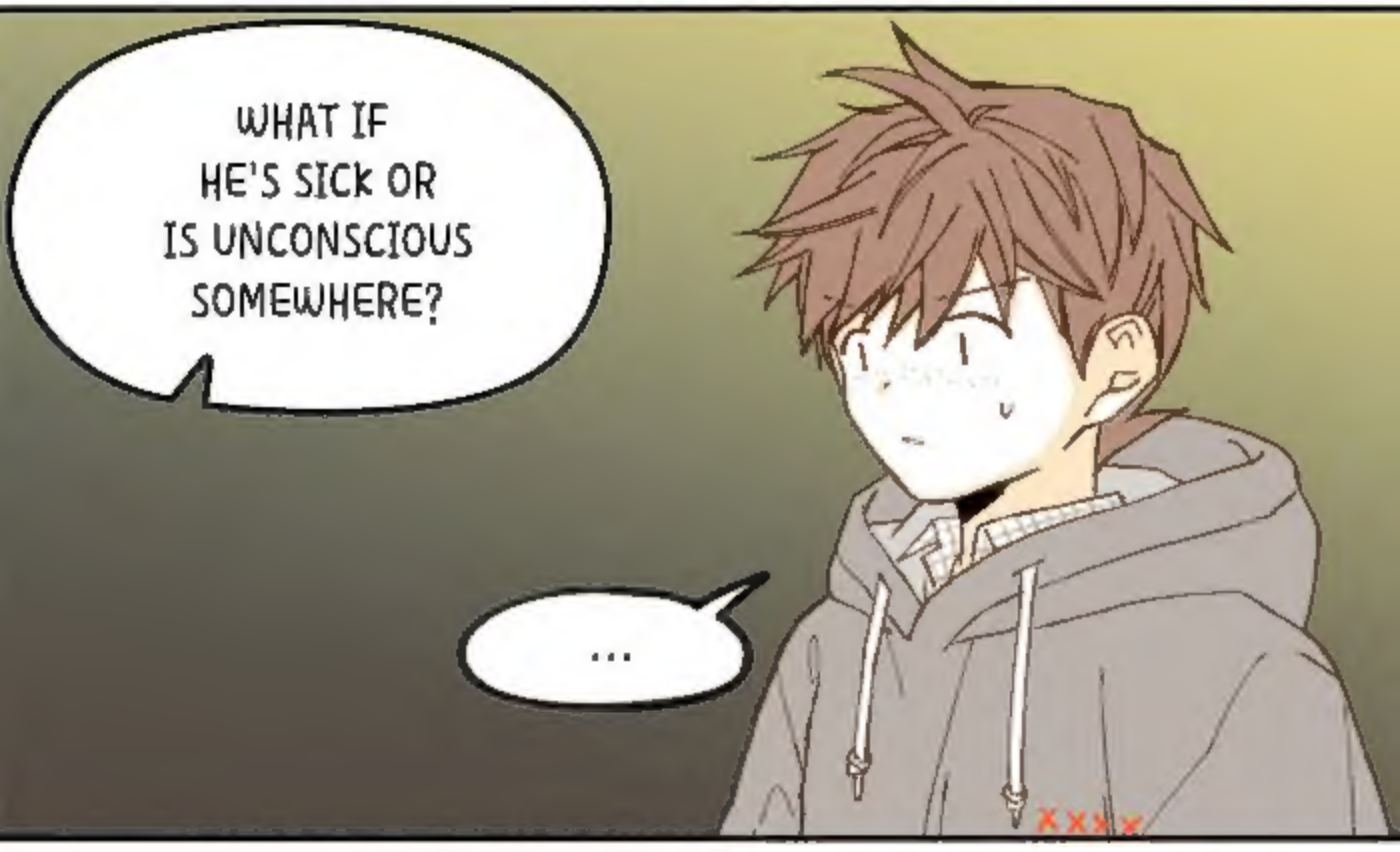

YOU APPARENTLY NEED A RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM A DRAGON TO BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE EXAMINATION...
HEY,
DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE EXAM ANYMORE.

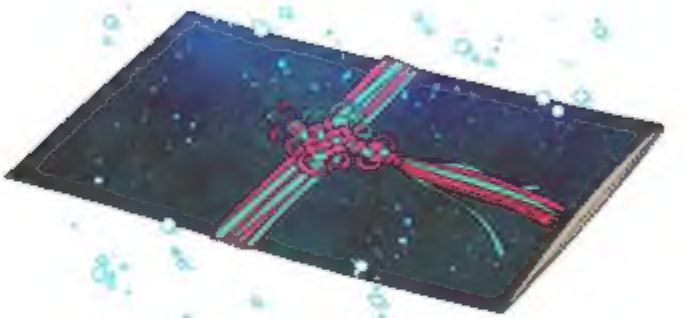
THEN...
...AT LEAST TELL ME WHERE BARI IS!
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW!
LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY FOR ONCE!

HE HASN'T BEEN ANSWERING ANY OF MY CALLS!


A SUBJECT OF THE DRAGON KING PERSONALLY DELIVERS THESE LETTERS...
...BUT EVEN THEY COULDN'T LOCATE HIM, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE THE DRAGON'S POWERS AT THEIR DISPOSAL.
SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT!


WHAT IF
HE'S SICK OR
IS UNCONSCIOUS
SOMEWHERE?
...

DO YOU REALLY HAVE NO CLUE...



...WHERE HE MIGHT BE?